

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6240

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, IT

SUBJ: VATICAN RESTATES ANTI-MARXIST, ANTI-ABORTION STANDS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON EVE OF THE DEADLINE FOR SETTING OFFICIAL DATE FOR HOLDING ABORTION REFERENDUM, SPECULATION HAS ARISEN IN PRESS THAT VATICAN WAS SEEKING CONTACTS WITH PCI FOR PURPOSE OF FORMULATING COMPROMISE ON ABORTION AND FOR WIDER UNDERSTANDINGS. ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE THAT VATICAN EMISSARY WAS NONE OTHER THAN ASSISTANT TO CARDINAL POLETTI, THE VICAR OF ROME. IN EDITORIAL APRIL 14, VATICAN ORGAN "L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO" FORCEFULLY DENIES TRUTH OF SUCH ALLEGATIONS AND CLEARLY RESTATES CHURCH POSITIONS NOT ONLY ON ABORTION, BUT ALSO ON DOCTRINAL AND PRACTICAL INCOMPATIBILITY OF CHRISTIANITY AND MARXISM.

2. EDITORIAL REPEATS CHURCH'S "IRRENOUNCEABLE" DOCTRINE ABOUT ABORTION AND CHURCH'S "PLEDGE" TO DEFEND HUMAN LIFE FROM ITS CONCEPTION. GIVEN THESE POSITIONS THE EDITOR NOTES THAT HE CAN'T SEE WHAT SECRET UNDERSTANDINGS THE HOLY SEE CAN SEEK WITH POLITICAL EMISSARIES.

3. WITH REGARD TO ALLEGED VATICAN-PCI CONTACTS AIMED AT WIDER UNDERSTANDINGS, THE EDITORIAL CALLS ATTENTION TO FOLLOWING:
-- NO PERSON RESPONSIBLE OF THE HOLY SEE OR ITALIAN CHURCH HAS EVER BEEN CHARGED WITH HOLDING SECRET RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

-- THE LINE OF THE VATICAN AND THE ITALIAN CHURCH WITH REGARD TO
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CONTACTS WITH PCI HAS BEEN OPENLY ENUNCIATED, MOST RECENTLY BY

ITALIAN EPISCOPATE WHICH HAS DECLARED THE THEORETIC AND PRACTICAL INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN CHURCH AND MARXISM.

-- FROM THIS DECLARATION SPRINGS FORTH THE NORM ACCORDING TO WHICH A CHRISTIAN CANNOT BE MARXIST, NOR ADHERE TO POLITICAL MOVEMENTS THAT ARE INSPIRED BY SUCH MATERIALIST AND ATHEIST DOCTRINE.

4. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT CONTEXT OF CLAR DOCTRINAL AND MORAL PRINCIPLES EXCLUDES SECRET RELATIONS AND "COMPROMISE UNDERSTANDINGS" AND THAT AFFIRMATION OF CONTRARY "WITH FANTASTIC INVENTIONS" SUCH AS THOSE OF SANDRO MAGISTER (IN WEEKLY "L'ESPRESSO") IS A MALICIOUS ATTEMPT TO CREATE CONFUSION AMONG UNKNOWING READERS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: VATICAN SINCE JUNE 15 LAST YEAR HAS BEEN QUICK IN DENOUNCING PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT IT APPROVES "HISTORIC COMPROMISE". TIMING OF PRESENT DENUNCIATION, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BECAUSE OF PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS WHICH HAS RAISED STRONG POSSIBILITY OF EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, EDITORIAL IS A MEANS FOR SIGNALLING THAT VATICAN OPPOSED ANY LAST-MINUTE MOVEMENT TOWARD HISTORIC COMPROMISE BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHO MAY BE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO AVOID EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. VOLPE

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